

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (canceled)
2. (previously presented) The system as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the programmable device comprises the programming means and the reading means.
3. (previously presented) The system as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the programmable device is an automatic payment machine.
4. (previously presented) The system as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the programmable device is coupled at least temporarily to the programming means, which programming means comprise the reading means and, at least temporarily, the electronically readable information carrier.
5. (previously presented) A system for selective activation of one or several software and/or hardware functions in a programmable device, comprising:

reading means for receiving an electronically readable information carrier that includes a programmable memory having a numerical value stored therein,

programming means for modifying the numerical value in accordance with the functions activated in the programmable device,

wherein the programmable device is coupled at least temporarily to the programming means, the programming means comprising the reading means and, at least temporarily, the electronically readable information carrier, and

wherein the programmable device is a timer.

6-9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) A system for selective purchase and activation of one or several software and/or hardware functions in a programmable device in which the functions are unavailable for use until purchased and activated, comprising:

reading means for receiving an electronically readable information carrier that includes a programmable memory having a numerical value stored therein; and

programming means for modifying said numerical value in accordance with the previously unavailable functions that have

been made available for use by being purchased and activated in the programmable device.

11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) A method of activating a function of a programmable device having plural functions that are unavailable for use until being selectively purchased and activated, the method comprising the steps of:

electronically reading an electronically readable information carrier on which a first value is stored;

coupling the programmable device having the plural functions that are unavailable for use until being selectively purchased and activated to a program capable of selectively purchasing and activating the plural functions;

selecting at least one of the plural functions to be made available;

making available and activating the selected function;

coupling the program to the information carrier; and

purchasing the activated function by debiting from the first value a second value of the activated function.

13. (new) The method as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the programmable device is one of an automatic payment machine and a timer.